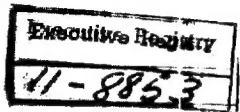


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5 November 1959

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Briefing of The Honorable Edson O. Sessions

1. The Honorable Edson O. Sessions, newly appointed Ambassador to Finland, will be briefed on CIA activities beginning at 1500 hours on Friday, 6 November, in the Director's Conference Room, Administration Building. He will be accompanied by Mr. E. Glion Curtis of the Department of State.

2. Program:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Time</u>	
Introduction	Mr. Allen W. Dulles	1500-1515	
CIA Organization	[redacted]	1515-1540	25X1
Current Situation in the Area	[redacted]	1540-1600	25X1
DDP Activities	[redacted]	1600-1700	25X1

3. Administrative arrangements will be handled by [redacted] 25X1

[redacted].

[redacted]

OTR Briefing Officer

Attachment:

Biographic sketch

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OTR Briefing Officer/[redacted]:gs

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Briefing File

Edson O. Sessions

On 20 October 1959 the President announced the recess appointment of Edson O. Sessions of Illinois to be United States Ambassador to Finland vice John D. Hickerson who now is Ambassador designate to the Philippines.

Mr. Sessions, who presently is serving as Deputy Postmaster General of the United States, was born in Toledo, Ohio, on November 5, 1902, and received his B.S. degree from Harvard in 1925.

He began a distinguished career in both business and government in 1925, when he was named Vice President in Charge of Construction for the E. O. Sessions Company, Ltd. In 1930 Mr. Sessions joined the Bendix Aviation Corporation as Chief Industrial Engineer--a position he held until 1935, when he opened his own firm, Sessions Engineering Company of Chicago.

In 1942 Mr. Sessions became Consultant to the Army Ordnance Department and New York and Chicago Ordnance Districts. During World War II he also made special studies and submitted reports for the China Industrialization Program for the Chinese Nationalist Government. From 1954 to 1955 Mr. Sessions was Director, U.S.O.M., Foreign Operations Administration, Bangkok.

Mr. Sessions was made President of E. O. Sessions Company of Florida in 1955 and also served as President and Director of Root-Lowell Mfg. Company and Director, Powers Regulator Company of Chicago.

He headed a special Department of State team to Laos and Cambodia in 1956 which undertook a study of the economic situation there. Mr. Sessions was appointed Deputy Postmaster General in 1957.

EDSON O. SESSIONS  
DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

Edson O. Sessions, Deputy Postmaster General of the United States, is in the midst of a fourth successful career following three attempts to retire. He has distinguished himself in business, industry, foreign service and domestic government.

The tall, energetic Postal official was born in Toledo, Ohio, on November 5, 1902. He attended Chicago Latin School and received his B.S. from Harvard in 1925.

He began his career as a construction engineer with his father's firm, E. O. Sessions Company, Ltd., and resigned to become chief industrial engineer for Bendix Aviation Corporation in 1930.

In 1934, he founded and became head of Sessions Engineering Company of Chicago and retired for the first time 20 years later at the age of fifty. Within six months, Mr. Sessions accepted the post of Director, United States Operations Mission, Foreign Operations Administration, in Bangkok, Thailand.

This mission successfully concluded, he again retired but was once more recruited in 1956 to lead a study group to evaluate economic, political and military problems in Laos and Cambodia for the State Department. During World War II he served without compensation as consultant to the Army Ordnance Department and set up production controls in all 13 Ordnance Districts.

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, well aware of his achievements in business, industry, engineering and government, saw embodied in Mr. Sessions the right combination of abilities and experience to accomplish his long-range goal of next-day delivery of letter mail anywhere in the country. Mr. Sessions accepted the Postmaster General's challenge in

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the summer of 1957 and immediately began to plan and execute the Post Office Department's urgent program of modernization and mechanization.

The Administrative responsibilities of his office are broad and the activities varied. He must pinch-hit for the Postmaster General in important functions such as Cabinet meetings and conduct the affairs of his own honored position. He attends White House meetings, appears before Senate and House Committees charged with the responsibilities of Postal and Civil Service affairs, travels the country to inspect facilities, sites, new methods, techniques and machines, supervises research and engineering projects in the Post Office Department, conducts top staff meetings, approves all major contracts for facilities and equipment, and finds time to visualize and present ideas for hundreds of mechanical and operating improvements in mail processing.

He has been described by the Postmaster General as the creator of the mechanized post office and there are many accomplishments to justify the accolade. In the two years he has been in his job, Mr. Sessions has:

Directed the 2 billion dollar program of mechanization and modernization.

Expanded the Research and Development organization within the Post Office Department.

Established architectural and engineering standards.

Expedited the development of many new types of postal equipment.

Contracted for the building of two completely automated post offices, designed to serve as working laboratories for testing and evaluating new methods and equipment under operating conditions. They are in Providence, Rhode Island, and Oakland, California.

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Conceived and planned small automatic customer-operated substations where postal patrons will get self-service 24 hours per day.

Arranged for first public experiment of facsimile transmission of letter mail from the Washington Post Office to the Los Angeles Post Office.

Established a Post Office Department Laboratory in Washington, D. C. Initiated plans for letter mail standardization to speed mail handling and eliminate damage to odd-size letters.

Mr. Sessions is an outdoorsman of international reputation and last year shot on the four-man United States Olympic trap team in the International Championships in Moscow, U.S.S.R.

He is married to the former Frances Cox of Quincy, Illinois, and has one son, William Loren Sessions, and a ward, Michael Kunath.

(THE END)

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Memo: DCI  
From: JSE  
Subj: Edson O. Sessions  
ER 11-8853/1  
Date: 6 Nov 59

ATTACHMENT: Memo dtd 5 Nov 59 fr Training  
re Briefing of Hon Edson O. Sessions(ER 11-8853)  
w/bio info

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE) Training

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